

Bluford Notes & Quotes

Please help us welcome A&T's new Dean of Library Services, Vicki Coleman.

Letter from the Dean

Dear Colleagues:

I am excited and grateful to have the opportunity to serve as Dean of Library Services at North Carolina A&T State University. I thank my predecessor, Ms. Doris Mitchell, for her leadership and service and I am honored to succeed her. Coming here is particularly special to me because I received my bachelor's degree from A&T in mechanical engineering and I am a former student employee of the F.D. Bluford Library.

This is a transformational period for academic research libraries in a rapidly evolving digital environment. Within the digital environment, academic research libraries serve as physical and virtual gateways to local and global information. In the coming months, I look forward to working collaboratively with the library personnel and in consultation with faculty, staff, students and information technology experts, to develop strategies in alignment with the University's strategic plan, *A&T Preeminence 2020*.

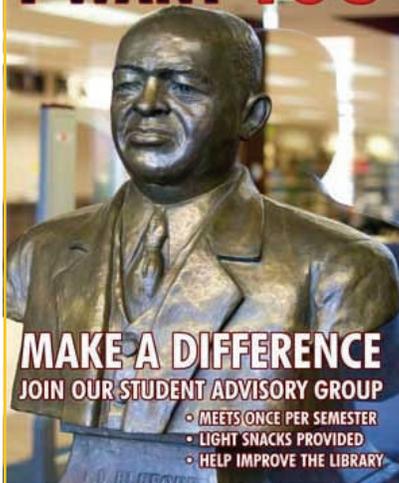
One of my priorities is to ensure that the library's collections and services continue to meet the needs of the academic community. I welcome your comments and suggestions in this regard.

Sincerely,
Vicki Coleman, Dean of Library Services



Dean Vicki Coleman

I WANT YOU



MAKE A DIFFERENCE
JOIN OUR STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP

- MEETS ONCE PER SEMESTER
- LIGHT SNACKS PROVIDED
- HELP IMPROVE THE LIBRARY

Former A&T president Ferdinand D.
Bluford, the library's namesake

Bluford Recruits Student Advisory Committee

The first meeting of the F. D. Bluford Library Student Advisory Committee was a great success, and everyone learned from the experience. The Bluford team seeks to grow this committee to get even more student input as we work towards building the greatest patron-centered library community possible!

This advisory group meets every semester to discuss the library, act as a focus group to discuss new initiatives, and give perspective on current student concerns. As an extracurricular academic activity, this will provide students with added activity for their resumé's. But the real payoff will be the ability to be an essential link in shaping student-centered services.

Please pass the word to all interested Aggies. With student support, the Bluford Library will remain vital as the intellectual heart of campus.

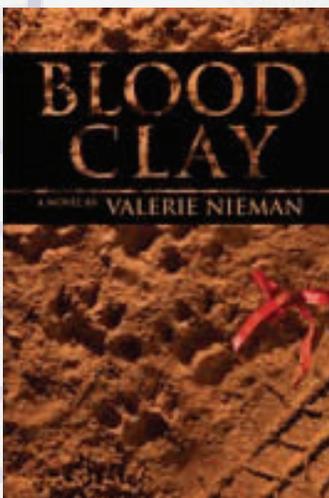
Getting Literary at the Library: *Authors Share Their Stories*



***Blood Clay* Lunch & Literature with Valerie Nieman**

Blood Clay by A&T professor Valerie Nieman, will be the subject of the F. D. Bluford Library's next Lunch and Literature book club gathering.

This "classic story of Southern life" tells a gripping story of a struggle for home. *Blood Clay* is a wonderful new work of Southern literature, and the Bluford Lunch & Literature club is delighted to have the opportunity to read it and discuss with the author to get even greater insight into the work and the inspiration and heart behind it.



Nieman's latest novel, called by Jane Alison "both a tense, plot-driven story about complicated issues of race and guilt, and a meditation on solitude, history, and ways of living," centers on Tracey Gaines, who has moved to rural Saul County, NC, to escape the wreckage of a divorce. She teaches at an alternative school and devotes herself to renovating a farmhouse, but finds she can't easily build connections in this new place. When a tragic event and her solitary witness divide the community, she finds an ally in a native son who struck out for new opportunities, only to face his own trauma and a forced return home. This woman from the North and man raised in the South, each wounded, must learn to confront their fears and latent racism if they are to stake a claim to home.

Join us at 12:30pm on Thursday, November 10th, 2011 in the 2nd floor Seminar Room (Rm. 258) as we discuss *Blood Clay* with the author. Bring your lunch, bring a friend, all are welcome!

Remembering Lunch & Literature with Zelda Lockhart

by Donna Royster

On Tuesday, April 12th, as a part of the celebration of National Library Week, Author Zelda Lockhart visited the F.D. Bluford Library Lunch and Literature group to discuss her book, *Cold Running Creek*.

Ms. Lockhart talked about her writing process, motivation for writing the book, and process of developing the characters. During the meeting, attended by faculty and staff members and students, she answered questions and engaged in a lively dialogue with those attending.

This session with Ms. Lockhart, the 2010 Piedmont Laureate for North Carolina, was a definitively positive addition to our 2011 National Library Week celebration.

